Origin and History
of
Harlowton
Montana

(Artwork by
Joyce Massing)

(This book was originally produced as a rodeo program
for the 1989 Harlowton Rodeo)

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Rodeo Committee

Dr. Howard Holloway, Chairman
Jim Freeser, Vice Chairman
Stan Kalberg, Secretary/Treasurer
Dave Piper, Ticket Chairperson
Evelyn Leary, Parade Chairperson
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Elaine Lammers
Terry Freeser
Jean Lynn
Rosalie Snelling
Julia DeBuff
Donna Haarr

Harlowton RODEO

Rodeo has been a Harlowton tradition since the early 1880's. Rodeo was first a Sunday event put on by the roundup crews as entertainment for the cowboys. The first rodeos of record were put on in the Harlowton - Merino area by the Musselshell Roundup Assoc. of which John H. Freeser was the roundup captain in 1882-1885.

The first Harlowton Rodeo at the present location was in 1910 in conjunction with the Meagher County Fair Assoc. During this period rodeos were an event at Two Dot, Big Elk, Martinsdale, Brannin Ranch, Bower Ranch and Harlowton as well as other ranches in the area.

In the 1920's, the American Legion - Post 15 sponsored rodeos in Harlowton. The 4th of July celebration in 1922 included a bear roping contest as well as horse races, foot races and baseball. A grand ball was held at the Liberty Hall (present Moose Hall). Admission was 50 cents adult, 25 cents for children.

In 1923 a full-fledged rodeo was held. This was the first three day rodeo held in Harlowton, July 3rd, 4th and 5th, with John Christensen winning the saddle bronc riding and Jack Tracy winning the bare-back riding.

These contests were continued during the twenties and during the depression and drought years of the thirties, a few ranch rodeos were held.

In 1947-48 the American Legion again sponsored the Harlowton Rodeo. This time a RCA show with Greenough and Orr of Red Lodge furnishing the stock.

In 1952 our annual Chamber of Commerce Rodeo was started. It was largely due to the efforts of Frank Holloway and Louis Kalberg, both early day contestants. Livestock was furnished by local ranchers and contestants were mostly local cowboys. The rodeo started as a one day event with 30-40 cowboys and has grown into a two day event plus one day of slack with

approximately 400 cowboys and cowgirls from all over the northwest. Howard Holloway and Stan Kalberg have taken over the reins since their fathers' deaths and have guided the show for the past 26 years.

In 1961, lights were installed and it became an afternoon and evening show.

In 1968, we began contracting all of our livestock and have had the good fortune of having the Dale Small Rodeo Co. stock for the past 21 years. This has resulted in our having one of the best rodeos in the area.

This year we have endeavored to put together a rodeo program which will reflect some of our Harlowton and Musselshell heritage.

We hope you will enjoy the celebration and get to meet old friends and classmates.

HARLOWTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Howard Holloway, Chairman
Stan Kalberg, Sec./Treas.

John Christensen of Two Dot, Montana. The photo is the property of Kay Holloway of Harlowton.

Muir Ranch Co.

Harlowton, MT

Founded by Joseph Muir in 1905
The ranch is still in the same family

MEY

M/J

Huck RV Court

Herb and Lu Ann Huck

Highway 12 — Harlowton, MT

- Showers and Supplies
- Full R.V. Hookup

Located on the site of the Jawbone Depot and first County Yards

Klock Land & Livestock

Founded by
H. L. Klock, H. C. Klock, T. B. Klock
in 1900
Harlowton, MT

AK

This colored Post Card photo of the Urner Block in Harlowton is undated. The dray at the left side of the photo was owned by Owen Collier. The photo was donated to the Upper Musselshell Museum by Cassie Painter.

Johnson Sales

— Consignment Sales —

Reidar Johnson
210 N Central
Harlowton, MT 59036
Home Ph. (406) 632-5841

MF

JR

Paul and Raymond Fochs

Registered Herefords—
Miles City - Awesome - Chaperal
Explosion - King 11 - Detonator

Registered Simmental—
Feckvich Bloodline

PF

R/F

JL

S & T Trucking

John M. Lynn

Shawmut, MT

Great-grandson of Charles and Cora Wrzesinski
Homesteaders in the early 1900's
at the foot of the Snowy Mountains

W.W. Clements started his Hereford herd in 1949 with the purchase of heifers from Thayer Stevens of Harlowton. Thayer started Stevens Hereford Ranch east of Harlo in 1924, and became one of the most respected names in early performance and Line One circles.

From this quality beginning, Clements Herefords has continued to build its breeding program. Now through the use of artificial insemination, they are able to provide the cattleman with sires that have a broad genetic base and total trait excellence.

CLEMENTS HEREFORDS

Box 185, Harlowton
Montana 59036
Bill, Sr. (406) 632-5875
Bill, Jr. (406) 632-5749
Stop in and see us

Harlowton Auto Parts

L. D. Glenn erected our building in 1911 for $1200, on lots purchased from A.C.Graves.

It has housed NAPA since 1959

Jim and Terry Freeser ***27 S. Central Ave***

Coast to Coast Stores

(Van Dyke Building)

Bill Van Dyke originated a grocery store in the early 1900's after leaving Hedgesville. Later there was Warneke's Bakery and also a dairy housed within the structure. The Sorensens had their bakery here, too. The Coast to Coast business has been occupying the building since the early 1960's. Current owners are Paul and Debbie Painter who purchased the Coast to Coast in August, 1987.

This was originally known as the "Martin Block." It now houses Sheila's (ladies' clothing store) and Dr. Rosenberg's offices. The photo was placed in the Upper Musselshell Museum by Cassie Painter.

Merino

Merino was officially established as a post office in 1881 with Delphaett Scawmont as postmaster. The name Merino came from the breed of sheep (Merino) that were run in the area by Charles Severence at that time. It was located in a log building near the present site of the Montana Power substation. As the combination of a post office and saloon in the same building was frowned on by the government, the post office was built which opened in 1885 with James Devee as postmaster.

The name Merino was changed to Harlowton on Nov. 9, 1900. The new name came from Richard Harlow, father of the Montana or "Jawbone" Railroad. Richard Harlow and Arthur Lombard auctioned the first lots on June 10, 1900.

Thomas Hanzlik bought the first lot and erected a barber shop. Two months later there were sixteen business buildings in the area.

The original main street ran in front of the present site of the Catholic Church next to the tracks of the Jawbone Railroad going from east to west.

Greg Berg Construction

General Contracting

In business for 15 years — Harlowton, MT

Montana Power Substation started in 1915
Art Wigfield—Manager

Photo of Fair Week in Harlowton was printed on one side of a Penny Post Card which was addressed to Miss Annie Arthur (Cosgriffe) at Wallis Montana. (Hal Stearns collection)

Mid-Montana Title Co.

Incorporated May 18, 1917 as Wheatland Abstract Co.
by F. P. Marrs, B. T. Stevens and Geo. N. Olson

Tony Poirier joined the company on 3-29-23
Oscar Callant joined the company on 5-5-47
Stan Kalberg joined the company on 3-22-62

Stan Kalberg — Owner

To passengers of this stage line.

Adherence to the following rules will insure a pleasant trip for all.

1. Abstinence from liquor is requested, but if you must drink, share the bottle. To do otherwise makes you appear selfish and unneighborly.

2. If ladies are present, gentlemen are urged to forego smoking cigars and pipes as the odor of same is repugnant to the gentlesex. Chewing tobacco is permitted, but spit with the wind, not against it.

3. Gentlemen must refrain from the use of rough language in the presence of ladies and children.

4. Buffalo robes are provided for your comfort during cold weather. Hogging robes will not be tolerated and the offender will be made to ride with the driver.

5. Don't snore loudly while sleeping or use your fellow passengers shoulder as a pillow, he (or she) may not understand and friction may result.

6. Firearms may be kept on person for use in emergencies. Do not fire them for pleasure or shoot at wild animals, as the sound riles the horses.

7. In the event of runaway horses, remain calm. Leaping from the coach in panic will leave you injured, at the mercy of the elements, hostile Indians and hungry coyotes.

8. Forbidden topics of discussion are stagecoach robberies and Indian uprisings.

9. Gents guilty of unchivalrous behavior toward lady passengers will be put off the stage. It's a long walk back.

A word to the wise is sufficient.

Ryegate Bar

Home of the Annual Testical Festival

Rick and Gayla DeBuff

This photo was taken in front of the original grandstand during the Harlowton Rodeo in 1923 or 1924. The original grandstand was constructed by A. C. Graves. The photo is from the collection of Dr. Howard Holloway.

Alfred Bouchard family homestead

in the Snowy Mountains from 1880-1919

Rose and Elwyn bought a ranch west of Shawmut in 1941, where Rose, her son Bud and his wife still reside.

Rose's grandsons: John, Mike, Jim and their families all live in the area.

Mike, Kerry, Justin, Jami
Bouchard
Shawmut, MT

Two Dot Land & Livestock Co.

Two Dot Land & Livestock Co. was founded in 1908 by the purchase of the Linten Ranch on the American Fork Creek from the estate of Two Dot Wilson. Later the Duffey Ranch was purchased. The Jim Lunney Ranch was purchased in the 50's and the Livingston Ranch was added in the 60's. Homesteads on the ranch include Pederson, Hunter, Riyelman, Wilson, Thomson, Schultz, Harper and Allman.

It is now operated by Warren Jones, Bob Jones and Bill Jones, 3rd and 4th generation ranchers and descendants of one of the founders, E. C. Baxter. His son, Bob Baxter, was active on the ranch until his death in late 1988 at the age of 96

Joe and Barbara Pirrie
Well Drilling
Shawmut, MT

Henry Buckley (1888-1954) started drilling wells in the Harlowton area in 1908

This photo was taken inside Tom Hanzlik's Barber Shop in 1908. Tom purchased the first lot in the new Harlowton townsite and built his shop in 1900. The photo was donated to the Upper Musselshell Museum by Mrs. Fred Hanzlik.

A Cowboy Ballad

1903, by Wallace McCray

Take me back to old Montana
Where there's plenty of room and air
Where there's cottonwood and pine trees
Bitteroot and prickly pear.
Where there ain't no pomp and glitter
Where a shilling's called a bit;
Where at night the magpies twitter
Where the Injun fights were fit.

Take me back where the sage is plenty
Where there's rattlesnakes and ticks;
Where a stack of "whites" costs twenty,
And they don't sell gilded bricks.
Where the old Missouri River
And muddy Yellowstone
Make green patches in the Badlands
Where old Sittin' Bull was known.

Take me where there ain't no subways
Nor no forty-story shacks
Where they shy at automobiles
Dudes, plug hats, and three rail tracks;
Where the old sun tanned Prospector
Dreams of wealth and pans his dirt;
Where the sleepy-night herd puncher
Sings to steers and plies his quirt.

Take me where there's diamond hitches,
Ropes and brands and cartridge belts;
Where the boys wear chaps for britches,
Flannel shirts and Stetson felts.
Land of alfalfa and copper!
Land of sapphire and gold!

Charles Meyers Ranch

1889 **1989**

Johnny Christensen winning first place at the Rodeo on July 4th, 1923., riding "Bue Elephant." (Property of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Holloway)

Oliver and Eunice

Lammers

KS

Since 1911

Tidbits of Harlo History

The first known white man in the area was Venendye, who with two Catholic priests and some fifty men came through the Judith Gap and camped on the Musselshell near the present site of Harlowton in 1741. *(Taken from the record of the Jesuits at Montreal, Canada.)*

A treaty with the Crow Indians and the US Government on May 7, 1868 opened the Musselshell to settlement.

In 1878, JV Salazar (Mexican John) was robbed of his horses, grub and guns near the present site of Harlowton by the noted horse thief George Reynolds (Big Nose George). Salazar walked to White Sulphur Springs where he worked on various ranches until he could save enough to return to the area in 1880 and settle on what is now the Larry Capser ranch west of Harlowton.

At the time of the Salazar robbery, Reynolds was known to be camping on the Musselshell with Andrew Garcia where he was holding a bunch of stolen horses on his way to Canada. Reynolds was later hung at Rawlins, WY for stealing horses.

The pioneer ranch on the Musselshell was the Oscar Smart Ranch west of Harlowton, homesteaded in 1879.

The first large cattle operation in the area was the Chicago - Montana Livestock Co. with S.S. Hobson as part owner and manager. This operation was headquartered at the Hopley Creek Ranch NW of Harlowton in 1882.

The first sheep operation on the upper Musselshell was started by P. J. Moore in 1878.

Between 1882 and 1885 the last large herd of buffalo was wiped out by the Flathead Indians near the present Winnecook Ranch, east of Harlowton.

The first buildings in Harlowton (Merino) were constructed

by Severences in about 1880; a log building which was to house the post office, saloon and a small store were built. In 1885 several more structures were added.

On June 10, 1900 the townsite of Harlowton was established and Merino ceased to exist.

With the coming of the Jawbone Railroad in 1900, the townsite was changed to be near the railroad, which ran from east to west in front of the present Catholic Church.

On June 10, 1900, the first lots on the new townsite were auctioned. Tom Hanzlik, who had travelled from Castle Town on a bicycle, bought the first lot, on which he erected a barber shop.

Ben Urner opened the first general store (The Urner Mercantile) next to the present creamery in 1901. The building burned down in 1929.

The Ben Urner home was the first home built in Harlowton which had inside plumbing and heating in 1901-1902.

The first telephone service dates back to 1899 when the

This is a street scene in Harlowton, Montana before the first big fire. The hotel stands on the corner where St. Joseph's Catholic Church is now located. (Hal Stearns collection)

Leary's Exxon

Gene and Evelyn Leary

Our 25th Year 1964-1989

Business built and opened by Herman Karnop in 1955

The site of an early day blacksmith shop belonging to Fred Bartelson.

XIT

Holloway Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Howard Holloway

Dr. Herbert Holloway 1852-1920

Last Territorial Veterinarian 1887-1889

First State Veterinarian 1889-1895

Purchased Hopley Creek Ranch 1895

The Stage Stop

Grub — Staples — Ho-Downs

Stop for a Giant Burger

Home of the "Ramblin II Band"

Bill and Sheila Huravitch **Shawmut, MT**

Lewistown Telephone Co. installed the first phone system. Mountain States Telephone Co., now US West Communications, purchased the facilities in 1918 at which time there were 204 phones in service. The original facilities were replaced in 1929 with a magnetic switchboard and in 1935 a manual common battery system was installed. Dial service was installed in 1961 and later that year direct dialing was introduced.

The first blacksmith shop was the third building in Harlowton. It was built in 1900 by Bert Blethon, approximately where the Exxon station now stands.

In the spring of 1903, the Chicago Flexible Shaft Co. (Sunbeam) built a public shearing plant just north of town. It remained in operation until 1911. They sheared between 60-70 thousand sheep during a six week period.

The first issue of a newspaper in Harlowton was Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Musselshell News on July 12, 1906, published weekly on Thursdays by A. F. Weston. Subscriptions were $1.50 per year.

The first butcher shop was opened by Joe Labrie in 1907. Bill Van Dyke was the head butcher. Joe Labrie was also the first postmaster of Harlowton, obtaining the position Nov. 9, 1900.

Harry Klock started the first dairy in Harlowton in 1907.

On June 17, 1907, Harlowton's first big fire occurred, destroying 24 buildings on the north side of the street. After the fire, most of the new building took place on what is now the main street.

The Continental National Bank (Bank of Harlowton) was established by Ben Urner on Jan. 1, 1905. This was the first bank in Harlowton and the only one of fourteen established in Wheatland County which still exist.

The first doctor in Harlowton was Dr. G. F. Tidyman, who came here in 1902, under contract to supply medical services for the Jawbone Railroad. His son, J. A. Tidyman, born in 1902, was the first white child born in Harlowton. Dr. Tidyman left Harlowton in 1906 and moved to Ennis, MT. He was followed by Dr. Samuel Campbell, who arrived here in 1907 and continued in

This was taken inside the A. C. Graves Meat Market in Harlowton on February 10, 1912. The photo is in the collection at the Upper Musselshell Museum.

Harlowton Gardens and Gifts

Tom and C.A. Buckley

A Bulgarian gardener started the first flower garden below the Graves Hotel hill in 1917 — a result of the flu epidemic!

Paul Ledyard Van Cleve, the son of Gen. Horatio P. Van Cleve and Charlotte Ouisconsin Clarke (the first white female born west of the Mississippi) came to Montana Territory in 1879, inspired by his uncle, Malcolm Clarke, who arrived here in 1841 and whose murder by Piegan Indians in 1869 precipitated the infamous Baker Massacre. He first disposed property aquired by his cousin, Lt. Crittenden, who had been killed with Custer three years earlier, and then lived in Coulson (now Billings) for several years before moving to Porcupine Butte, near Melville. There he built a 36-room house, raised a son and five daughters, and put together the nucleus of the family ranch. His son, Paul Jr., added to the ranch holdings and in 1922, extended the family's hospitality to a limited number of carefully selected guests. His son, Paul III "Spike" was a noted Western author and a Director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City at his death in 1982. Today the Van Cleve family breeds and raises commercial Angus, registered quarter horses, and continues to accept Eastern and European guests into their ranch home.

VC 6

Dempster's Body Shop

Harlowton, MT

Dan and Kelli Dempster

Located near old Merino — site of the first rodeo in about 1885

The TIMES CLARION

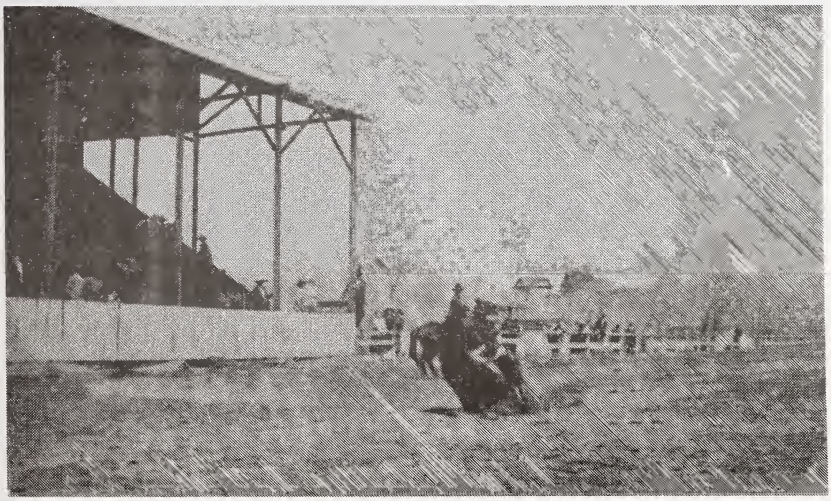
July 5, 1917 — First Issue of the Harlowton Times. Howard Squires and Walter Hanson, owners

October 5, 1940 — Harold and Jean Stearns purchase

July 1, 1973 — Gerald and Audrey Miller purchase

April 1, 1976 — Combined with the Eastern Montana Clarion of Ryegate to become the Times—Clarion

'Still dedicated to serving the Upper Musselshell Valley'



This is a scene from the Harlowton Rodeo in either 1923 or 1924. (Howard Holloway photo collection)

practice until his death on March 7, 1929. Dr. Ellsworth Ross arrived in Harlowton in 1909 and practiced until his death in 1928. Dr. Edward Gans, who had been in practice in Judith Gap since 1912, moved to Harlowton in 1929, where he practiced until his death, Nov. 30, 1958.

Dr. Gans, when 80 years old, was named by the American Medical Association in 1956 as the nation's Most Outstanding Family Doctor.

The first drug store in Harlowton was established by Herb Hawley in 1908. This was the third store in Harlowton, but we had thirteen saloons.

The first garage in Harlowton was built by Ward H. Beley in 1910. He also obtained the Ford Agency at that time. He received his first shipment of Ford cars on June 2, 1910. His son, Jim, still has a Ford Agency.

The Musselshell Lodge of Masons was organized June 19, 1908.

The first veterinarian was Dr. Herbert Holloway. He purchased the present Hopley Creek Ranch in 1895. He was the last Territorial Veterinarian of Montana (1887-1895), and the first state veterinarian.

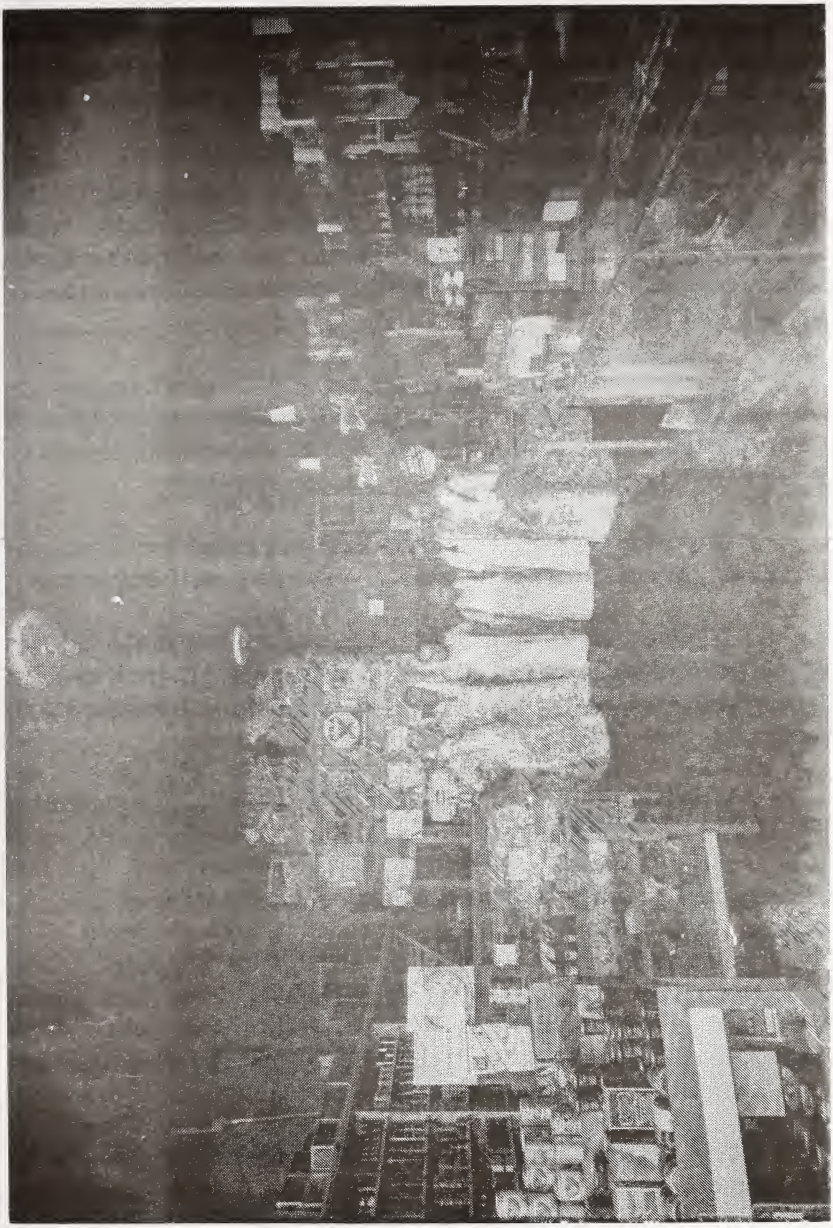
The first town election was held on June 6, 1908. Mr. H. T. Anderson was elected Mayor.

W. C. Husband became the first practicing attorney in Harlowton in December, 1908.

The first church in Harlowton was the "Wilson Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church". The cornerstone for the church was laid Dec. 28, 1908. Mrs. G. R. Wilson, (widow of Two Dot Wilson) gave $500, accounting for the name. This is the present Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Dr. P. E. Thompson was the first resident dentist , Oct. 6, 1910.

The grand opening of the Graves Hotel was on June 19,



This was the crew at Van Dykes Store in the early days. Left to right were Bill Van Dyke, Vince Farnum, Henry Buckley, Dad Schneider, Horris Langston and Bob Schneider. (Upper Musselshell Museum photo)

1909, with a banquet and dance. This building, which still stands, is one of the historic buildings of Montana. It was constructed of stone quarried below the hill in back of the hotel. It was built by the Graves Hotel Co., organized by A. C. Graves who was also the principal owner.

In 1910, A. C. Graves cleared the area at the bottom of the hill and to the west, starting the present fairgrounds. That summer the grandstand was constructed and the first fair sponsored by the Meagher County Fair Assoc. was held in August of 1910.

The first official use of the Wheatland County Fairgrounds was on June 5, 1917, celebrating the creation of Wheatland County. Senator C. P. Tooley, Sen. William Jones and Rep. E. C. Baxter were the speakers.

G.C. Moore opened the first theater, named the "Olympia" in 1914. This building is next door to the present Conerstone.

The first cemetery in Harlowton was located north of town on the present golf course. The first person buried there was John Smith, who supposedly had a set of false teeth made from $5 gold pieces.

Wheatland County was created by act of the Legislature, to become the 41st county in Montana as of April 1, 1917.

County officials named in the act were:

County Commissioners, I. S. McQuitty, J. E. Foster, Frank Williams; Clerk and Recorder, W. W. Phares; Treasurer, C. B. Reedeman; Sheriff, Dominic Grivetti; Clerk of the Court, A. T. Anderson; County Attorney, L. D. Glenn; Assessor, Elmer Crawford; Supt. of Schools, Miss Bertha Lunceford.

The election held in 1919 was the first to elect officials by popular vote.

The Harlowton Light and Water Co. supplied power to the new town. It consisted of a coal-fired boiler, a steam turbine and generator. It operated only from sundown to sunup for lights only. It was operated by Frank Brewster until 1924.

Small Rodeo Co.

Dale and Guy Small

Pompey's Pillar, MT

Furnished Harlowton Rodeo stock since 1968!

Winnecook Ranch Co.

Established 1880 by Berry Bros.

Harlowton, MT

* Post Office at Ranch in 1885
* The name Winnecook came from a small lake near Unity, Maine
* Winnecook is from the Penobscot Indian language, meaning Pleasant Waters

Wheatland Implement & Repair

James and Honor Conley

Harlowton, MT

First Airplane in Harlowton
was at the Harlowton Fair in 1915
with Otto Timm as Pilot

In 1915 the Milwaukee Railroad was electrified from Harlowton west. This was the first large railroad to use electricity extensively.

The last big fire in Harlowton was in 1929 when the Urner Mercantile burned down. This fire was started when a school teacher living in an apartment above the store was dry cleaning with gasoline. No lives were lost, but several had severe burns. This was the last business building on the old main street, located between the creamery and the old courthouse.

The first Christmas tree on Central Avenue was put up in December 1924 by the Masons, and has continued every year since, making it sixty-four years. The oldest civic project in town.

Harlowton School District No. 16 came into being on Nov. 12, 1900. The first school was a wooden structure located on the hill where the Lopatch home is now. This structure was moved to the high school area (present courthouse) in 1917 and used as a shop and agriculture building. In 1910 the High School (present courthouse) was built. The Edison Grade School was built in 1920. In 1937 the present High School was built. A new gym was added in 1961. In 1955 the Hillcrest school was constructed.

At one time there were 50 school districts between Martinsdale and Ryegate.

One of the first school districts in the area was the Big Elk district, created July 25, 1892. This was District 23 of Meagher County. Until this time schools were held in various places and not included as being in a district. The Big Elk District became District No. 1 in Wheatland County in 1917.

The first laundry in Harlowton was started by Lee Smith, a colored man, in 1892 and was in operation unitl 1915.

The first farming done in the area was on the homestead of Young McDonald, south of Harlowton, now owned by Homer Griffith.

Wheatland County was the first county in the US to go over its' goal in the Liberty Bond Drive of 1918. A ship, Wheatland, Montana, was named after the county.

This photo was printed on a post card and showed the remains of Harlowton after the big fire on June 17, 1907. (Hal Stearns collection)

The Montana Flour Mills were constructed in 1910. W.N. Smith and C.R. McClave were the organizers.

With the coming of the railroad in 1899, a great many changes took place in the area. Many new settlers (homesteaders) and business people moved in.

The first railroad into the area was the Jawbone in 1899. This caused the movement of several towns. Big Elk was resettled to be near the tracks and became Two Dot, named after "Two Dot" Wilson, who had donated the land for the new townsite. The terminal at Merino was a mile from town, so it was relocated and became Harlowton.

In 1906 the CMStP&P Railroad started building west from Chicago with its route coming through Harlowton. This brought in more homesteaders and business people. In 1907 Harlowton became headquarters for the construction of the track 100 miles to the east.

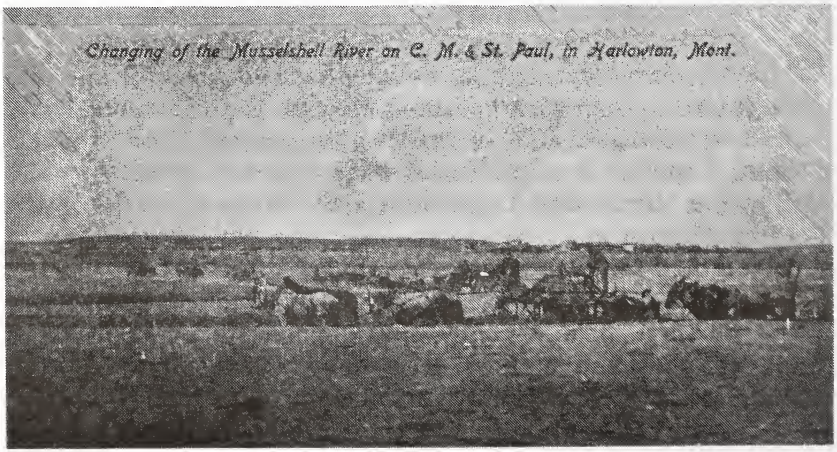
On Dec. 5, 1907, work was started on the Milwaukee Roundhouse. On March 9, 1908, the first passenger train from the east rolled into Harlowton, with freight trains to follow.

With the coming of the Milwaukee Railroad at a lower elevation than the Jawbone, and the big town fire of 1907, the main part of town was again changed to be closer to the railroad.

One of the oldest buildings near the railroad was a boarding house built in 1907 by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Minshal. This was used as a boarding house for the construction crews, later becoming a hospital and an apartment house. The building was recently torn down. It was located across the street from the Harlowton Gardens and the Star Hotel.

The first stage line operating out of Harlowton was started by Harry Cosgriffe in 1903. This line served the Hedgesville and Ryegate areas. In 1907 Cosgriffe started a dray business which later developed into Cosgriffe Transfer and included bus and taxi service. The first taxi was a coach and team, later Model T and Model A Fords were used. The business operated under the same family manager until 1948, making it the oldest established business in Harlowton.

The first jewelry shop in Harlowton was owned by Pat Poston (Mrs. Orton Ortwein's uncle). It opened about 1907. This shop was later sold to the Robertson Bros., who continued operation for many years.



This Post Card photo shows construction crews digging a new river bed for the Musselshell River at Harlowton, which would allow room for construction of the C. M. & St. Paul Railroad at Harlowton. (Hal Stearns collection)

Robertson Ranch

Judith Gap — Harlowton

Operating since 1913

C<

Jersey Dairy

Meadow Gold

Located in the original Harlo Creamery building, which was built in the 1890's.

Managed by the Robert Willems family for the past 37 years.

John Brown riding "Bald Heart" during the Harlo Rodeon on July 3, 1923. (Howard Holloway collection)

The first photographer in Harlowton was Tom Sorboe, who opened his shop in 1910. He continued operation until he sold out in 1919, and went into the building construction business. Some examples of his work include the Montana Building, now Sheila's, and the L. D. Glenn building, now the Harlo Auto Parts.

The present library and City Hall building was originally the Farmers State Bank, which was purchased by the city for $5,000 in 1930.

In the early 1900's a shortage of labor for building the new railroad brought a number of people into the area.

With the completion of the railroad, several Japanese families remained in the area. Among those staying were the Munetas, Satakes and Yamamotos. Mr. Sam Satake participated in the driving of the Golden Spike, signifying the completion of the transcontinental railroad link. A Japanese family operated the Palace Cafe, one of the earliest cafes in Harlowton. This family remained until the 1920's. Henry Muneta and his daughter are the only Japanese remaining.

In 1913, a contract was let by the city for sewer and water lines in the new town. Some earlier lines had already been established in the original townsite, consisting of wooden pipe wrapped with wire.

One of the first major buildings on the new main street was constructed by the McQuitty Bros. (Mac and Dick) in 1909. The stone for this building, which stood where the E-57B locomotive now stands, came from the hill below the Graves Hotel. The blocks were quarried by August Pollman, a homesteader south of Harlo and an early Musselshell stone mason.

The formal opening of the McQuitty block was on April 24, 1909. This included the McQuitty Bros. store, later known as Wheatland Grocery, located on the present site of the E-57B Park.

The McQuitty Bros. came from Missouri in 1906 as contractors for grading the Milwaukee right of way. Both men had long and distinguished careers in the Harlowton area. One or the other was active in the formation of Wheatland County, County Commissioners, State Senators, Harlowton Postmaster, Montana

Harlo Home Center

Willard and Elaine Scott

Baseball was a popular entertainment, even in the "Good Old Days." This game was being played at Two Dot (Hal Stearns collection)

Wojtowick Auto Repair

Ed and Jeanne Wojtowick purchased this building on September 27, 1947 from E.F. McQuitty. Mr. McQuitty was a Montana Senator who donated land for the McQuitty football field. Ed and Jeanne Wojtowick ran a Hi-Way Mobil Service for 20 years. Tim and Julie Wojtowick purchased the building from Ed and Jeanne on July 18, 1983. Now known as Wojtowick Auto Repair, the building originally housed a steam laundry business.

The land was first owned by A. C. Graves in 1905.

State Purchasing Agent, Harlowton Mayor, School Board member active in Chamber of Commerce and made possible the building and lighting of the Harlowton football field, as well as having several ranching interests.

The first real estate and insurance business in Harlowton was the firm of Urner, Lynn and Dunn, started about 1910. This firm was succeeded by the firm of Lynn and Dunn, which built the Lynn and Dunn Building on Central Ave in 1919. The building is now occupied by the Montana Power Co. and Mid-Montana Title Co., operated by Stan Kalberg.

The first Superintendent of Public Instruction was Bertha Lunceford, who was appointed to this position by an act of the legislature creating Wheatland County in 1917. With the exception of 16 years, when she taught in the Harlowton schools, she held the position until her death in 1951. This made her one of the longest — if not the longest — holders of public office in Wheatland County.

We have tried to put together a little of the history of the area from the time of the 1880's; when women wore hoop skirts, bustles, cotton stockings, high-buttoned shoes and starched pants and the men wore whiskers, derby hats, red flannel underwear, drank 10 cent whiskey, 5 cent beer and worked 12 hours a day; stores had coal oil lights and carried everything from a needle to a plow, trusted everyone, never took inventory and bought goods a year ahead; to the establishment of our present Wheatland County in 1917.

We hope you have enjoyed these tidbits and will come back to our area again.

Harlowton Chamber of Commerce
Centennial Committee

Hickman Law Firm

Harlowton, MT

Gordon and Linda Hickman

Harlowton's first and only Airline was owned by Herman Hendrickson, Herbert Holloway and Stanley Cavill

1927-1929

UX *Sweet Grass Ranch* UX

Stanton Brannin claimed his homestead in the Crazy Mountains' Sweet Grass Canyon in 1897. In 1903, he moved his 11 children and wife from New Mexico to Montana, where two more children were born. Brannins raised cattle, horses and the first Angora goats in the area. Barney was a government trapper of note, snaring the last renegade wolf, the Highwood Wolf. He was also an expert on mountain goats, helping establish them in the Crazies. Many of the early rodeos were hosted in the Brannin corrals. During slim times, they took in hunters and guests. Owned and operated the last 25 years by Bill and Shelly Corraccia, the ranch is now listed on the National Register of Historical Places and continues as a cattle ranch accepting selected guests.

Moore Livestock Co.

Two Dot, MT

Founded by Perry J. Moore in 1876

The first locally owned airplane belonged to Perry Moore — a Curtis OX5 purchased in 1920

Julia DeBuff

Louis P. and Julia Stiger were ranchers on Swimming Woman Creek in 1897, when a daughter, Rena, was born in Lewistown. On Feb. 15, 1917, Rena and Carl Kosbab were united in marriage and ranched on the foothills of the Snowies in the Irene and Bercail communities. They homesteaded near Rothiemay from 1917 until 1921. During this time, a daughter, Julia, was born. They later moved to Irene, where their daughter Carlene was born, and then to Bercail, where a son, Donald, was born. Julia was married to Cyril DeBuff on Oct. 22, 1940. To this union a daughter and son were born. Cyril farmed and ranched at Shawmut until 1981 and Julia was postmaster for 28 1/2 years, retiring in 1980.

Sid Brennan was riding "Butterfly" at a Harlowton Rodeo on August 2, 1924. (Howard Holloway collection)

Territorial Post Offices

Big Elk: Sept. 18, 1882; Ozias Hatch, postmaster.

The postoffice was closed in 1885 then reinstated in 1888 with Thomas Noble as postmaster. It was discontinued May 15, 1913.

Bercail: Oct. 16, 1882; Philip I. Moule, postmaster.

Halbert: 1885-1902.

Located north of the present day Hedgesville. Thomas Halbert was the first postmaster. The office was moved to the George Pirrie ranch and finally to the Rothiemay flat. It continued to operate until November 30, 1952. There were Halbert postoffices in two locations, both operated and named by the same family.

Hurst: 1884-1891; Robert McClatchy, postmaster.

This was a postoffice and stage stop located at the upper end of Fish Creek on the trail between Big Elk and Melville.

Oka: April 12, 1880; Eliza Severance.

Oka was the home station of the Billings-Benton stage line. The office was closed in 1895 and reopened in 1896 untill 1909.

Merino: 1881-1882; Delpheatt Scaumont, postmaster; reopened in 1885 with James H. Devee postmaster; 1886, Tycungus Fitzpatrick, postmaster.

This was a postoffice and stage station on the east-west route between Judith Basin and Big Timber. It consisted of a combination stage stop, post office, general store and saloon. The name changed to Harlowton in 1900.

Shawmut: October 27, 1885; Francis Shaw, postmaster.

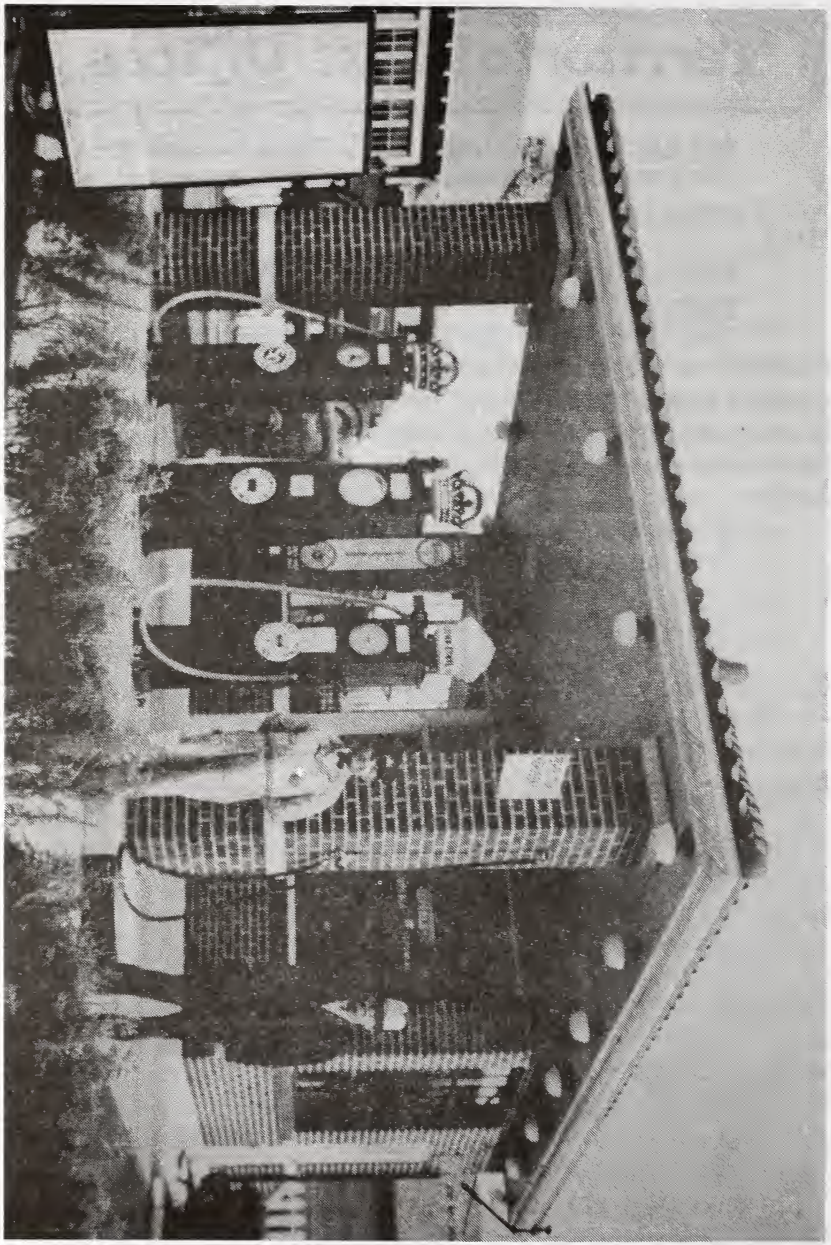
The first postoffice was located at the OK Bar ranch east of Shawmut and later moved to the Dan Vonica ranch on the Musselshell River south of Shawmut with Elmer Crawford as postmaster. When the post office was moved into Shawmut, it was located in the Montana Lumber Company building, then moved into a store. From there it moved into various homes as the postmaster changed.

Yale-Hedgesville: April 1888 - Dec. 1959; W.A. Hedges, postmaster.

The name changed to Hedgesville in 1910.

Winnecook: January 9, 1886; Ralph Berry, postmaster.

This post office was on the Berry ranch east of Harlowton, now the Winnecook Ranch Co. It closed April 15, 1933.



This service station was located on the corner across from the Graves Hotel, and was operated by Fred Hanzlik as manager in 1927. The gentleman in the suit is Jim Clements who operated a second hand store. (Upper Musselshell Museum collection)

"The Toggery - Men's Store"

– Opened October 1909
– Built by L. L. Kalberg

The Toggery "The Fashion Place"
Ph. 632-4474 Harlowton

Since 1987 *Owners: Duane & Phyllis Kolman*

This booklet contains many photographs which were loaned by some very generous people. We appreciate their thoughtfulness in sharing.

Special thanks go to the people who have donated or loaned so many old photos to the Upper Musselshell Museum in Harlowton so they can be enjoyed by everyone!

Beley Ford

FORD

Ward Beley was with Urner Mercantile until 1910 when he obtained the first local Ford Agency, now owned by his son, Ward Beley

First carload of Fords arrived in Harlowton June 2, 1910

Sentiments of C.M. Russell

Here's to all old timers, Bob,
They weren't all square it's true,
Some cashed in with their boots on—
Good friends I knew.

Here's to the first ones here, Bob,
Men who broke the trail
For the tender foot and booster
Who came to the country by rail.

Here's to the man with the gold pan
Whose heart wasn't hard to find,
It was as big as the country he lived in,
And good as the metal he mined.

Here's to the rustler that packed a notched gun
And didn't call killins' sins,
If you'd count the cows and calves in his herd
You'd swear all his bulls had twins.

Here's to the skinner with a jerk line
Who could make a black snake talk,
An could string his team up a mountain road
That would bother a human to walk.

Here's to the crooked gambler
Who dealt from a box that was brace,
Would pull from the bottom in a stud hoss
An' double cross friends in a race.

Here's to the driver that sat on the coach
With six reins and the silk in his grip,
Who'd bet he could throw all the ribbons away
An' herd his bronk team with his whip.

Here's to the holdup an' hoss thief
That loved stage roads an' hosses too well,
Who asked the stranglers to hurry
Or he'd be late to breakfast in Hell.

Here's to the whaker that swung a long lash
An' his bulls bawled with fear when he spoke,
He'd swear on a hill he wouldn't drop a trail
If every bull starved in the yoke.

So here's to my old friends, Bob,
I drink to them one and all,
I've known the roughest of them, Bob,
But none that I knew were small.
Here's to Hell with the booster,
The land is no longer free,
The worst old timer I ever knew
Lots dam good to me.

John Christensen of Two Dot was aboard "Jazz Baby" when this photo was taken in Harlowton on July 4, 1923. (Howard and Kay Holloway collection)

MONTANA Centennial 1889·1989 ™

7 7

The 7 Brand on both hips was established by John H. Freeser in 1874, one of the first of ten brands recorded in Montana. It was first recorded in Jefferson County and is now owned by his grandson, John H. Freeser.

7 7

Staley Drug

Jeanne and Oscar Biegel

Drug Store started in 1924 by James M. Staley
Located in first Golden Rule Store of Harlowton

Handmade Centennial Breast Collars

Hand Sewn

Norman Schuchard
Ph. 632-5551 Harlowton, MT

This photo of Central Avenue in Harlowton was taken on February 11, 1936. The photo was donated to the Upper Musselshell Museum by Cassie Painter.

Photo by Schmeling

1901-1989
Berg Livestock

From Conception to Consumption

Montana — Home of the Musselshell River Valley . . .
where a handshake seals a deal!

1901—Business started by Warren Tucker, Harlowton.
Central Montana horse, sheep & cattle
Country Buyer
1949—TUCKER & BERG ORDER BUYERS formed with
Albert Berg, Martinsdale
1951— ALBERT BERG ORDER BUYER started
Central Montana Order Buyer of cattle & sheep
Byron Berg learns the ropes
1971—BERG LIVESTOCK formed by Byron Berg
Montana cattle Dealer-Trader
1986—Larry Berg begins

Byron Berg—Licensed, Bonded, Experienced
Livestock Dealer-Trader
Box J, Martinsdale, Montana 59053 (406) 572-3333
Box 688, Harlowton, Montana 59036 (406) 632-4347
Salaried Buyers—Larry Berg-Judith Gap; Larry Rice-
Denton; T.W. (Bill) Roberts-Charlo
Salesman—Fred Crisp-Laurel, Nebraska

Byron & Lauretta Berg - Larry, Keith, Norma, Sandra
Larry & Roxanne Berg - Trent

THE CONTINENTAL National Bank

HARLOWTON, MONTANA

Member F. D. I. C.

The Continental National Bank of Harlowton remains the only financial institution in Wheatland County. It was first incorporated as a State Bank in 1917. In 1919 there were four banks in Harlowton—the Bank of Wheatland County (Museum Building), Farmers National Bank (Library), and First National Bank (Senior Citizens Center), as well as the Continental Bank and Trust Company. Also there were banks in Judith Gap, Hedgesville, Shawmut, Two Dot and Martinsdale.

The Bank's total deposits have grown from $513,300.00 in 1919 to $24,000,000.00 on May 31, 1989.

The initial meeting of stockholders was held April 21, 1917 at which it was proposed to purchase the property and assets of the State Bank of Harlowton (next to the Creamery).

Construction of the present bank building began in 1917 and was completed in 1919. Extensive remodeling and modernization of the structure was undertaken in 1960 and again in 1982.

The Continental Bank and Trust Company's assets were acquired by Northwest Bancorporation in January, 1930, and a National Charter was secured under the name of The Continental National Bank of Harlowton.

In February, 1930, the Farmers National Bank of Harlowton was consolidated with the Continental National Bank of Harlowton, and in 1949 the Continental Bank assumed deposits of Stockmen's Bank of Martinsdale.

In 1947 local residents purchased the stock of the Continental National Bank which was held by Northwest Bancorporation and the bank has continued as an independent and entirely locally-owned institution since that time.

We thank all good people in the Upper Musselshell Valley for choosing us as their financial institution.